Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing a firmware binary file in an extension area of a non-volatile storage device of a computer system, wherein the non-volatile storage device includes a shared area to provide communication between the extension area and a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS); and

enabling a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS[[)]] of the computer system to access the stored firmware binary file by making the stored firmware binary file in the extension area visible to the BIOS.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the firmware binary file includes invoking a firmware interface via an installation toolkit.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein storing the firmware binary file further includes the firmware interface invoking a hardware interface to write the firmware binary file in the extension area.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the firmware binary file includes invoking a hardware interface via an installation toolkit.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the firmware binary file is a firmware application binary.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the firmware binary file is an operating system application binary.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer system operates in accordance with the Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework specification.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein enabling the BIOS of the computer system comprises using a Driver Execution Environment (DXE) dispatcher to trigger the BIOS to access the stored firmware binary file.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the BIOS is stored in a main area of the nonvolatile storage device.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising performing preparatory tasks.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein performing preparatory tasks includes checking a digital signature of the firmware binary file.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein performing preparatory tasks includes checking the firmware binary file for data integrity.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and

a first memory device operatively coupled to the processor on which a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) is stored;

a second memory device operatively coupled to the processor on which instructions are stored which when executed by the processor perform operations comprising:

storing a firmware binary file in an extension area of a non-volatile storage device of a computer system, wherein the non-volatile storage device includes a shared area to provide communication between the extension area and a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS); and

enabling a ~~Basic Input/Output System~~ (BIOS[[)]] of the computer system to access the stored firmware binary file by making the stored firmware binary file in the extension area visible to the BIOS.

14. (Original) The computer system of claim 13, wherein the first memory device includes instructions for operating the computer system in accordance with the Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework specification.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[15]]13, wherein the first and second memory devices are the same device.

18. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a non-transitory machine-readable medium on which a plurality of instructions are stored, which when executed perform operations comprising:

storing a firmware binary file in an extension area of a non-volatile storage device of a computer system, wherein the non-volatile storage device includes a shared area to provide communication between the extension area and a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS); and

enabling a ~~Basic Input/Output System~~ (BIOS[[)]] of the computer system to access the stored firmware binary file by making the stored firmware binary file in the extension area visible to the BIOS.

19. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein storing the firmware binary includes invoking a firmware interface.

20. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein storing the firmware binary further includes the firmware interface invoking a hardware interface to write a binary file in the extension area.

21. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the firmware binary file is a firmware application binary.

22. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the firmware binary file is an operating system application binary.

23. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the computer system operates in accordance with the Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework specification.

24. (Currently Amended) A firmware storage apparatus, comprising:

   a main area to store Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) program code;

   a shared area to store data accessible by both the main area and the extension area; and

   an extension area to store ~~complimentary~~ complementary BIOS program code.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The firmware storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ~~complimentary~~ complementary BIOS program code of the extension area comprises data provisioning code.

27. (Currently Amended) The firmware storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ~~complimentary~~ complementary BIOS program code of the extension area comprises anti-theft code.

28. (Currently Amended) The firmware storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ~~complimentary~~ complementary BIOS program code of the extension area comprises anti-virus code.

29. (Currently Amended) The firmware storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ~~complimentary~~ complementary BIOS program code of the extension area comprises asset management code.